



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I've been told that according to 'regulation' only a RN may monitor a patient post administration of moderate sedation and analgesia.

My question concerns this 'regulation'. The Respiratory Therapists at this facility administer moderate sedation for bronchoscopy procedure. Is there a regulation that prohibits the therapist from monitoring the patient until discharge criteria are met? Are you aware of the regulation I speak of and where I can find the specifics? Is it within our scope of practice to monitor a patient post moderate sedation administration?

Response: We have reviewed your inquiry and have the following comments to offer:

I am not aware of the regulation you mention that only an "RN" can monitor a patient post administration of moderate sedation and analgesia. I could not find any regulation or legislative statute to support that any such regulation exists.

It continues to be the position of the Board that it is within the scope of practice of a licensed and appropriately trained RCP to administer and assess moderate sedation to patients in either emergent or diagnostic environments. These environments are generally cardiopulmonary in nature but there is some overlap between cardiopulmonary and other diagnostic procedures (Endoscopy Services).

Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference #: 2005-C-05